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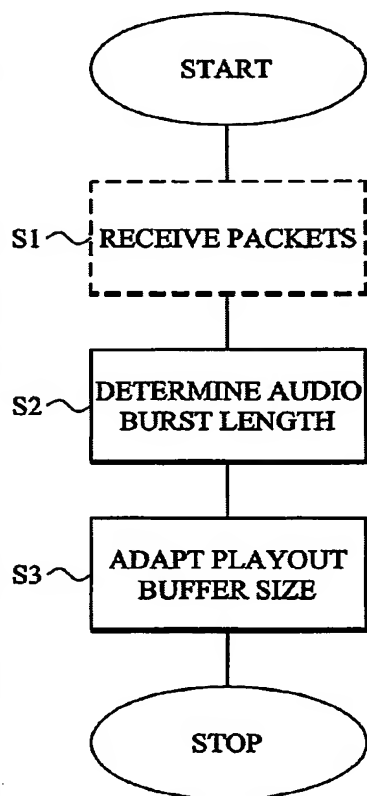
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(54) Title: ADAPTING PLAYOUT BUFFER BASED ON AUDIO BURST LENGTH



(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a size variable playout buffer (120) adapted for temporarily storing data packets comprising bursty audio data received over a communications system (1) at user equipment (100). The temporary storage and size variability compensates for changes in bit-rate or any transmission delay over the communications system (1). According to the invention, the size of the playout buffer (120) is adapted based on the audio burst length. Typically, the buffer size is controlled based on length values of multiple audio bursts, e.g. an average of multiple audio burst lengths, including a weighted average length. The number (M) of audio burst lengths to be employed in the averaging is preferably dynamically determined based on an audio burst length (average) value. The playout buffer (120) is adapted for use in a communications system (1) supporting Push to talk over Cellular (PoC) services.

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